

Amendment and Response

Applicant: Scott D. Sturgeon et al.

Serial No.: 10/035,588

Filed: October 18, 2001

Docket No.: 10001084-1

Title: REPLACEABLE INK CONTAINER FOR AN INKJET PRINTING SYSTEM

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 6, 12, 15, and 16 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An ink container to be received within a receiving station of an inkjet printing system, the receiving station having a fluid inlet having a compliant seal and a pair of guide slots extending along either side of the fluid inlet, the ink container comprising:

a first guide feature outwardly extending therefrom, the first guide feature disposed toward a trailing end relative to an insertion direction; and

wherein the first guide feature is configured to cooperate with the at least one guide slot to guide the ink container in a pivot motion to ensure the ink container engages the compliant seal forming a seal therewith.

2. (Original) The ink container of claim 1 wherein the guide feature is a pair of guide features that each extend outwardly from an ink container housing.

3. (Original) The ink container of claim 2 wherein the ink container housing defines a fluid outlet in a bottom portion thereof relative to a gravitational frame of reference.

4. (Original) The ink container of claim 2 wherein the ink container housing defines a leading end and a trailing end relative to an insertion direction and a pair of sidewalls each extending between the leading and trailing ends and wherein the pair of guide features each extend outwardly from each of the pair of sidewalls.

5. (Original) The ink container of claim 1 further including a second guide feature outwardly extending therefrom, the second guide feature disposed toward a leading end relative to an insertion direction into the printing system.

6. (Currently Amended) The ink container of claim ~~15~~ wherein the ink container has leading end and a trailing end are disposed ~~on a central axis~~ along a major axis of the ink

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container and ~~the~~ a pair of sidewalls are disposed ~~on a central axis~~ along a minor axis of the ink container, and wherein the second guide features are ~~is~~ a pair of guide features are disposed toward the leading end of the central axis and extending outwardly from the sidewalls along the minor axis.

✓ 7. (Original) The ink container of claim 1 wherein the receiving station includes a guide slot and wherein the guide feature is configured to engage the guide slot to guide the ink container in a pivot motion so that the ink container engages a compliant seal on the inkjet printing system.

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cont. 8. (Original) An ink container for insertion into an inkjet printing system, the ink container comprising:

an ink container housing defining a leading end and a trailing end relative to an insertion direction and a pair of sidewalls each extending between the leading and trailing ends;

a first pair of guide features, each of the first pair extending outwardly from each of the pair of sidewalls; and

a second pair of guide features, each of the second pair extending outwardly from each of the pair of sidewalls.

9. (Original) The ink container of claim 8 wherein the leading end and a trailing end are disposed on a central axis along a major axis of the ink container and the pair of sidewalls are disposed on a central axis along a minor axis of the ink container and wherein the first pair of guide features are disposed toward the leading end of the central axis along the minor axis and the second pair of guide features are disposed toward the trailing end of the central axis along the minor axis.

10. (Original) The ink container of claim 8 wherein the ink container housing defines a fluid outlet in a bottom portion thereof relative to a gravitational frame of reference.

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11. (Original) The ink container of claim 8 further including an engagement feature disposed on the leading edge, the engagement feature configured to engage corresponding engagement features associated with the receiving station.

12. (Currently Amended) The ink container of claim 11 wherein the inkjet printing system includes
a at least one guide slot and wherein the second pair of guide features is configured to engage the at least one guide slot to guide the ink container in a pivot motion so that the ink container engages a compliant seal on the inkjet printing system.

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cont. 13. (Original) The ink container of claim 11 wherein the inkjet printing system includes
a guide rail and wherein the first pair of guide features is configured to engage the guide rail to guide the ink container into the inkjet printing system.

14. (Original) The ink container of claim 11 wherein the inkjet printing system includes an engagement feature configured to engage corresponding engagement features associated with the ink container.

15. (Currently Amended) A replaceable ink container to be received within a receiving station of an inkjet printing system for providing ink to ~~an~~ the inkjet printing system, the receiving station having a fluid inlet having a compliant seal and a pair of guide slots extending along either side of the fluid inlet, an engagement feature disposed on ~~the~~ a leading edge of the replaceable ink container, the engagement feature configured to engage corresponding engagement features associated with the receiving station, the replaceable ink container comprising:

a fluid outlet configured for connection to the fluid inlet associated with the receiving station; and

a guide slot engagement feature disposed toward a trailing end of the replaceable ink container relative to an insertion direction, wherein with ~~an~~ the engagement feature disposed on ~~a~~ the leading edge of the replaceable ink container engaged with the

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corresponding engagement features associated with the receiving station, ~~and with the~~ guide slot engagement feature is so disposed and arranged on the replaceable ink container to interact with at least one of the pair of guide slots to guide the replaceable ink container into the receiving station to align the fluid outlet with the fluid inlet and to engage the compliant seal to establish a seal between the replaceable ink container and compliant seal.

16. (Currently Amended) The replaceable ink container of claim 15 wherein the inkjet printing system includes a guide rail and wherein the replaceable ink container further includes a ~~second~~ pair of guide rail engagement features that are configured to engage the guide rail to guide the ink container into the inkjet printing system.

17. (Original) A method for inserting a replaceable ink container into a receiving station of an inkjet printing system, the receiving station disposed on a scanning carriage and fluidically coupled to an ink ejection portion mounted thereon, the method for inserting the ink container comprising:

engaging an engagement feature on a leading edge of the replaceable ink container with a corresponding engagement features associated with the receiving station;

engaging a pair of outwardly extending guide features disposed toward a trailing end of the ink container; and

urging the ink container toward the receiving station wherein each of the pair of guide features guide the replaceable ink container along an arc about a pivot axis toward a bottom surface of the receiving station to align a fluid outlet on the replaceable ink container with a compliant sealing structure about a fluid inlet to form a seal with the fluid outlet.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein prior to engaging an engagement feature on a leading edge, the method including:

engaging a pair of outwardly extending guide rail engagement features on the toward the leading edge of the ink container with each of a pair of guide rails on the receiving station; and